



Washington State
Board of Education



Working to Raise Student Achievement Dramatically

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Board Announces Formation of Science Advisory Panel

Panel will advise on improving science standards for Washington students

OLYMPIA (Wa) – Today, the State Board of Education (SBE) announced the selection of the 2007-2008 Science Advisory Panel that will help review K-10 science standards—an important step in making recommendations for improving and creating world-class science standards in Washington.

SBE appointed a 19-member advisory panel that represents years of science-related experience and diverse perspectives and includes practicing scientists, educators, a school board member and parents from different parts of the state. Panel members will provide formal feedback and guidance to the external consultant, David Heil and Associates, Inc., as the review progresses.

“We were very fortunate to have such an accomplished field of applicants from which to select the advisory panel,” said Jeff Vincent, board member and chair of the Science Committee. “The advisory panel’s diverse interests and experience in science education will be a great asset in creating the recommendations to develop world class science standards.”

The statewide review will examine and make recommendations to improve the state’s science standards by providing greater clarity about what is expected of students in each grade and more explicit guidance to educators about what to teach when to ensure more Washington students succeed.

“Preparing students to succeed in the 21st century work force is one of the most pressing issues facing our state today. By continuing to look for ways to advance science education in our state, we will better prepare students to not only succeed in science and technology related fields, but also in post-secondary education and in life,” said Theresa Britschgi, BioQuest Director at the Seattle Biomedical Research Institute, and newly-selected panel member.

The consultant and advisory panel will work for the next several months with the Board, receiving an interim report from David Heil and Associates in March 2008. The Board expects to take public comment from across the state in April and produce a final report in May. Recommendations on changes needed to improve state science standards will

be provided to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) by June 30, 2008.

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